

INNITATIONS.

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.
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GENTLEMEN'S

HATS. HATS. HATS.
GLOVES.

GLOVES.

WINTER HOSIERY.

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 3rd November 1890.

This spirit which prompted it leads him, a page or so further down, to support, while professing to refute, an uncharitable story (which can only have originated in some equally prejudiced brain) to the effect that the Toleration Clause (Art. VIII.) in the Tientsin Treaty "was suggested by the Chinese themselves, while the Western Ambassadors were thinking of cotton and opium." This spirit is survival of the time when, to excuse an apparent want of success in making converts, missionaries were accustomed to lay their failure to the charge of "the bad lives of professing Christians resident at the Treaty Ports," and to the importation of opium; and when in turn the residents, irritated at an attack even more uncharitable than untrue, retorted by stories of falsehood, "hand-grabbing," and usurpation. But that time has long since passed. Irritation on the part of the lay resident in China has been replaced by respect and sympathy. Dr. Watson was present in Shanghai when this tribute (surely no uncharitable one) was paid to the missionary body by the leading organ of public opinion there:—"We are all missionaries in spite of ourselves!" the labours of the merchant and the missionary act and react one on another, and if commerce has led the man the missionaries have proved prompt and intrepid followers. Their services in opening up new fields and in rendering access easy to those already opened their achievements as explorers and interpreters, as naturalists and ethnologists, are not likely to be esteemed or easily forgotten. By breaking down bit by bit the old barriers of superstition and dread of foreigners, they have planted every resident in China in their debt. In the higher work of educating, civilising, and, if we may use the word, moralising a nation, they have rendered a service to the world at large. However much dogmatic differences may appear to separate them from the rest of the community, their medical, philanthropic, and scientific labours command the respect and goodwill of every thoughtful and intelligent man. What little prejudice still exists is based upon ignorance, which is unhappy the monopoly of neither side, and even should the present Conference yield no practical results, something at any rate will have been gained in making better acquainted with each other two elements in Anglo-Chinese life whose interests are largely identical, and whose best hope for the future lies in their mutual trust and respect."

Even if Dr. Watson believed those words slanders of "contamination," of "drugging," of "greed" which he brings against our merchants of 1842 and 1858, when he was in England, surely it would have been gracious and charitable in him after he had visited China, and had read this testimony and experienced this sympathy, to draw a veil over the past. Since he has chosen not to do so, but to leave on his home readers an impression that the mutual distrust between missionary and lay resident still survives, it is only right that a protest should be made, both against the truth of his allegations concerning the past, and the justice of his inscription to the present. We cordially endorse all our northern contemporaries has said in praise of the missionaries to China, and we believe that every layman out here would deplore an attack upon their work. Criticism of their methods they must expect, but it will not be unfriendly. Many, for instance, will dissent from Dr. Wright's assertion that the crowning result of the Conference was the appointment of a committee of translators for the purpose of bringing out a Union Bible, and will attach much more importance to the changed attitude of some of its leading members with regard to ancestral "China can wait, they will say, for a satisfactory translation of *Leviticus* or a commentary on the Song of Songs, but if missionaries wish to convert the nation it is above all things necessary that they should modify their attack upon that "key-note of China's social fabric," as one of their ablest men describes ancestral "worship," a stone over which their Orthodox predecessors stumbled two centuries before them. But because laymen out here call for more breadth and charity of view in problems like this, or urge a more reasonable division of labour among the score or so of Church representatives in the late Conference, this does not prove that they are hostile to missions, but rather that they take an intelligent and sympathetic interest in them.

As regards Dr. Watson's history, it seems almost superfluous to contradict it. However China came to be opened, the opening has been profitable to missionaries and merchants alike, but it is amusing to reflect, when we read of these "contaminating" visitors of the West, that the push which set the ball rolling in the thirties was given by the missionaries themselves. The strong measures taken by the Chinese Government, which ended in the first war and the Treaty of Nanking, were not prompted by indignation at the "drugging" of some sons and daughters, but by alarm at the visits of missionary ships to the northern coast! But we do not wish to bandy words with Dr. Watson; all we desire is to point out the mischief of such a line of thought as this: "China was opened forcibly and for purposes of greed and contamination; but the missionaries have come, and turned the evil into a blessing." Such a strain can only have the effect of averting from missionaries the sympathy of the merchants, who naturally enough resent for their predecessors as well as for themselves the imputation of being oppressive and callously selfish adventurers. Dr. Watson may deny that his flowery sentences were intended to carry this imputation, but they undoubtedly suggest it. More caution is necessary in the pages of a sober review than on the platform of a sectarian meeting, and policy, if not charity, suggest to the doctor the advisability of pruning sentences which, while they might be applauded in Exeter Hall, might easily wound the susceptibilities of an honourable body of men in China.

The P. & O. extra steamer *Goliath* left Hongkong for the port of the 8th instant.

The P. & O. extra steamer *Nicobar* left Singapore for the port of the 10th inst. at 4 p.m.

The appointment of Senator Salvador Raveo to the Consul for Spain at Hongkong is announced by the Manila paper.

The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) in form of the O.R.C. steamers *Feodor* from Liverpool, left Shanghai on the 1st instant, and is due here on the 10th inst.

The *Leopard* of the province of Fukien is reported to be a failure this season, owing to the prevailing drought, and the British Consul says it is feared that it will have to be sent to the port of import instead of export.

Mr. Tai U, a prisoner, whose reading the Chinese authorities had apparently charged of killing and robbing a hundred persons, was being sent to a Chinese prison by a guard under Acting Chief Inspector Crook.

The house No. 47, Bonham Strand, West, which was built in 1886, and was in use last, was insured in the North German *Insurance Co.* of which Messrs. Mallock & Co. are the agents for \$2,500. The origin of the fire still remains a mystery.

A circular has been issued by the Government to members of the Civil Service warning them that they are liable to be dismissed if they are known to gamble. The circular is presumably consequent on the recent revelations which have caused to lay their failure to the charge of "the bad lives of professing Christians resident at the Treaty Ports," and to the importation of opium; and when in turn the residents, irritated at an attack even more uncharitable than untrue, retorted by stories of falsehood, "hand-grabbing," and usurpation. But that time has long since passed. Irritation on the part of the lay resident in China has been replaced by respect and sympathy. Dr. Watson was present in Shanghai when this tribute (surely no uncharitable one) was paid to the missionary body by the leading organ of public opinion there:—"We are all missionaries in spite of ourselves!" the labours of the merchant and the missionary act and react one on another, and if commerce has led the man the missionaries have proved prompt and intrepid followers. Their services in opening up new fields and in rendering access easy to those already opened their achievements as explorers and interpreters, as naturalists and ethnologists, are not likely to be esteemed or easily forgotten. By breaking down bit by bit the old barriers of superstition and dread of foreigners, they have planted every resident in China in their debt. In the higher work of educating, civilising, and, if we may use the word, moralising a nation, they have rendered a service to the world at large. However much dogmatic differences may appear to separate them from the rest of the community, their medical, philanthropic, and scientific labours command the respect and goodwill of every thoughtful and intelligent man. What little prejudice still exists is based upon ignorance, which is unhappy the monopoly of neither side, and even should the present Conference yield no practical results, something at any rate will have been gained in making better acquainted with each other two elements in Anglo-Chinese life whose interests are largely identical, and whose best hope for the future lies in their mutual trust and respect."

Mr. George Plaisted's Company will play "The Daughter of the Regiment" at the Theatre Royal to-night. The piece will be produced under the patronage of Mr. Major-General Sir Philip Ponsonby, the popular author of "The Jolly Boys" and the clever introducer of the Queen.

The new *W. & S. Watson & Co.* have been replaced by repeat and sympathy. Dr. Watson was present in Shanghai when this tribute (surely no uncharitable one) was paid to the missionary body by the leading organ of public opinion there:—"We are all missionaries in spite of ourselves!" the labours of the merchant and the missionary act and react one on another, and if commerce has led the man the missionaries have proved prompt and intrepid followers. Their services in opening up new fields and in rendering access easy to those already opened their achievements as explorers and interpreters, as naturalists and ethnologists, are not likely to be esteemed or easily forgotten. By breaking down bit by bit the old barriers of superstition and dread of foreigners, they have planted every resident in China in their debt. In the higher work of educating, civilising, and, if we may use the word, moralising a nation, they have rendered a service to the world at large. However much dogmatic differences may appear to separate them from the rest of the community, their medical, philanthropic, and scientific labours command the respect and goodwill of every thoughtful and intelligent man. What little prejudice still exists is based upon ignorance, which is unhappy the monopoly of neither side, and even should the present Conference yield no practical results, something at any rate will have been gained in making better acquainted with each other two elements in Anglo-Chinese life whose interests are largely identical, and whose best hope for the future lies in their mutual trust and respect."

Concerning the European immigrants in the Foreign Settlements of Tientsin, the *China Times* says it is constantly remarked by visitors how well they look and thrive, and adds:—"Infantile mortality is certainly very small here, and infantile physique very large. We sometimes think that the North Chinese exceed us in this respect, but children are seen to be born in the streets, and usually not far from their mothers, as if it were natural. Up to the circumference of the city, there are no hospitals, and no dispensary, and no infirmary, so far as I am aware, to afford medical aid to the poor."

Mr. Francis said that if this Ordinance had been confirmed by the Queen in Council, it would have had no more validity. Powers by prerogative could not be exercised contrary to the terms "marine lot," on such expressions would probably be found in any law book, and must therefore be produced before his Lordship. The Queen's assent to the Ordinance was given on the 21st of October, and the Queen assented to the bill, and he concluded that that law gave the Government of this colony full power to carry on the works at present complained of, and therefore the existence of these works being lawful no injunction could be issued against them.

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1890.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC WORKS.

For some time past there has been a growing feeling in the Colony that the rate-payers ought to have a more efficient and direct control over the inception and execution of public works than is at present the case. This feeling was given expression to by the Hon. T. H. Whittemore at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday last, when he asked for full details in connection with all the items entered in the list of extraordinary public works. To this request a very remarkable reply was given by the Government. It was said that to comply with the request would mean filling the Council Chamber with plans and estimates, and, further, that it would be imprudent to disclose the detailed estimates, on the ground that such disclosure might affect the tenders sent in by contractors. Now, scarcely anyone, not even the Government of Hongkong, can be ignorant of the fact that the municipal authorities of the great towns at home exercise a direct control over the execution of public works of equal magnitude with any we have to consider in Hongkong, and that they are not at all in accordance with the number of plans placed before them, nor is the system considered to have any prejudicial effect when tenders are called for. The Government, when it wants to defend a rotten system, might at least endeavour to do so without so directly insulting the common sense of the community as it did on Monday.

It must be confessed, however, that to consider the detailed plans and estimates in the full body of the Legislative Council would be a somewhat inconvenient course of procedure. It would add enormously to the work of the Council, would necessitate more frequent meetings, and, after all, it is doubtful whether the consideration given to the matter under the conditions which prevail in a legislative body would be attended by very valuable results. It is work that should be done by a committee consisting chiefly of the unofficial members. There already exists a Public Works Committee, but what its functions are no one knows. We have on previous occasions directed attention to the powerful weapon which the existence of this committee places in the hands of the unofficial members if they choose to use it. No vote for any public work ought to be passed until it has been reported on by the Public Works Committee, whose duty should be to examine the plans and estimates, not necessarily going into such petty details as the number of panes of glass to be put in, but examining the merits sufficiently closely to satisfy themselves that the work fairly meets the requirements, and that the sum set down as the probable cost is reasonable. The vote would then be passed by the Council on the report of the Public Works Committee, and the executive officers ought not to be at liberty to deviate in any material particular from the plans without a further reference to the same Committee.

An example of the mischievous working of the present system is afforded by the Victoria College building, which cost at least \$100,000 more than it ought to have done, and owing to defective construction bids fair to be a most expensive building to maintain. On the other hand the Tytan Waterworks may be pointed to as an instance in which the Colony seems to have got very good value indeed for its money. But had the system of supervision by the Public Works Committee of the Legislative Council been in existence, the Tytan Waterworks would have cost no more and the Victoria College would certainly have cost much less. By the adoption of this system the Colony has everything to gain and nothing to lose. The officials concerned might possibly feel their dignity somewhat touched, but personal considerations ought not to be allowed to weigh in the matter at all. The Surveyor-General enjoys the confidence of the community as regards his professional qualifications and integrity, and his reorganisation of his department so as to secure skilled supervision for all important works is warmly approved of. It is the system, not the men who have to work the system, that is objected to. If the Government is determined to oppose the establishment of a Municipality, it must at least allow the Legislative Council to perform some of the more important functions usually delegated to municipal authorities. The system of giving *carte blanche* to officials in the spending of public money on public works cannot much longer be tolerated. Some little progress in reform has indeed already been made. Formerly it was customary in the estimates to state in connection with public works only the sum required for the particular year, so that if a work extended over more than one year it was not easy to ascertain the total estimate for the work, what had been spent, or what remained to be spent. In the estimates for the present year all these particulars are given. The throwing open of the Finance Committee has also let in a flood of wholesome light on public affairs, and has had in every respect most satisfactory results. We now want to advance another step and give the Legislative Council, acting by one of its committees, effective control over public works.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

(10th November.)

As will be seen from the proceedings of the Finance Committee on Saturday, the unofficial members propose that the Singapore method of dealing with the estimates be adopted here. Possibly the hon. gentlemen have not examined what this really means. The Singapore system is, we believe, a very much inferior system to that which now prevails in Hongkong. The estimates are referred to the unofficial mem-

bers, who signify their approval or otherwise and make what recommendations they think fit, and then the Appropriation Bill is passed through the Council without any of public discussion at the separate items of the estimates of which this Colony has had the advantage since the meetings of the Finance Committee were thrown open. To adopt the Singapore system here would therefore be a distinctly retrograde step. The question of the increase of official salaries is in itself a proper one for reference to a Select Committee, and it is only by that means that a settlement is likely to be arrived at. That particular question can be referred, however, without going to the dangerous length of passing a resolution such as that proposed by the Hon. P. Erskine. Having got a very good system of its own, we had better adhere to it, and not follow our neighbours unless it can be distinctly shown that their system is better. In the Finance Committee the unofficial members have full opportunity of discussing every item of expenditure, and the public have the advantage of knowing what line the discussion takes. Where the Government is specially desirous of obtaining the views of the community on particular items, as Mr. Fleming intimated he was desirous of doing in regard to the Happy Valley scheme and the project for lowering Queen's Road West—as it which it would seem the Government has no very definite opinion of its own—the official members would naturally refrain from voting, and leave the decision entirely in the hands of their unofficial colleagues. In any case where a serious difference of opinion existed and the unofficial members were outvoted, the latter would have the right of entering a protest, which would go up to the Council with the report of the Finance Committee, and which would have probably greater weight with the Governor and the Secretary of State than the report of a Select Committee. By all means let a Select Committee be appointed on the salaries question, but any general resolution which seems to favour a return to the vicious system of dealing with the estimates in secret ought to be carefully avoided.

(12th November.)

To the Hon. P. Erskine the word Singapore seems to possess as much blessedness as did Mesopotamia to the old lady of the story. Whether this celebrated female would have been willing to "follow Singapore" as a working rule of life we do not know, but evidently Mr. Erskine is prepared to follow Singapore. If we search the despatches far enough back, we find us, we will find that when the Finance Committee was established the instructions of the Secretary of State were that Hongkong was to follow Singapore, and with unswerving deference to authority the hon. gentleman proposed that after the lapse of so many years the colony should retrace its steps and set up an "antiquated instruction." Mr. Fleming, naturally enough, says the Government has no objection to follow Singapore; but we venture to think the community of Hongkong would have a very strong objection indeed to follow such an undesirable precedent as is afforded by the neighbouring colony in the matter of dealing with the estimates. It was only after a long and vigorous agitation that publicity in connection with the financial business of this colony was attained, and that any proposal for the cutting down of that publicity should come from the unofficial side of the Council is indeed remarkable.

His Excellency the Acting Governor deserves the thanks of the community for pointing out so clearly to the unofficial members the effect of the resolution of which notice has been given, and that the question it really raises is whether the estimates should be considered in public or in private. The Hon. T. H. Whittemore was prompt to proclaim any idea of abolitioning the Finance Committee, but the Hon. C. Chater and Hon. Ho Kai remained silent, and allowed the senior unofficial member to renew his harking on Singapore without a word of protestation. We are accustomed to look to the unofficial members to bring ordinary every-day common-sense and business-like ability to bear on the affairs of the colony, but it must be confessed that on this occasion those qualities were chiefly remarkable by their absence. What is asked is that the estimates should be referred to a select committee (which means that they should be dealt with in private), "mainly with a view to the consideration of the salaries question, the public works, and the military contribution." Mr. Fleming remarked with quiet sarcasm that he did not see what reason there can be to discuss the question of the military contribution otherwise than in public. And His Excellency is right. The unofficial members may talk in private till they are tired without affecting the least good to far as the military contribution is concerned. Nor is talking in public at all likely to secure any alteration of the present arrangement, but it may possibly stave off the time when the demand will be again increased. No amount of private discussion could have even this effect, and the official members, as far as to be appointed a special committee on the subject. The question of public works also is essentially one that ought to be discussed in public. Either the Public Works Committee or a special committee might be asked to examine into the details of the estimates; but the broad question of whether the works are necessary or desirable, and whether the colony can afford to pay for them, ought to be considered in the full body of the Finance Committee.

In connection with the salaries question, there are no doubt advantages to be appreciated. Indeed, great efforts have been made by the plenipotentiaries of these Southern provinces to obtain a large and direct supply of Chinese labour, with, until lately, very indifferent success. The Chinese Authorities were formerly not too well disposed to emigration to the Netherlands Indies, and have only lately become alive to the value of that country as an outlet for the surplus population. Now, however, they are aware to the fact that the emigrants return with considerable savings to settle in their own country, and that during their residence in the Dutch East Indies, and it works admirably. The Singapore system, which Mr. Erskine has set up as a *feint*, is not to be mentioned in the same breath with it, for the unofficial members working in secret would not be able to render anything like the good service to the colony they have the opportunity of doing under the present system. The light of publicity, as a whole, and as necessary for the unofficial as for the official mind.

THE LOOCHOO QUESTION.

The *Shen-pao* takes a sensible view of the Loochoo question. Without admitting the right of the Japanese Government to annex the Loochoo Islands, our Shanghai contemporary urges that the Chinese Government, having permitted the conversion of the group into the Okinawa-ku, must now recognise accomplished facts, and no longer attempt to ignore them. This was done some months ago, it will be remembered, much to the indignation of Japan. In June last a Loochoo junk having become dismasted and rudderless was rescued by a Chinese junk, and the islanders were landed at Fukien, and after being kindly treated were sent back to Loochoo by the Chinese Authorities, in connection with the Chinese Government, and there appeared to be eleven depots for the distribution of tickets. The appellants have to one another, and did not show any disposition to carry out the terms of their contracts. Many deserted and went to Colan, defying the efforts of the police to prevent them and very few now remain in the island." On the other hand, he speaks very highly of the Indian immigrants, who are not only good workers, peaceable and contented, but are large depositors in the savings banks, and have contributed materially to the prosperity of the colony. It is clear therefore that the West Indies are not likely to come to China for their labour supply if they can get it from India. China will, however, for many years to come find outlets for its surplus population in the islands of the East Indian Archipelago. The large island of Celebes, the greater portion of which is unexplored, the Moluccas, and Timor, as well as Borneo and Sumatra, will prove fine fields for the employment of Chinese industry, and as they find former avenues closed to the natives of Kwangtung they will doubtless flock thither in greater numbers in the future.

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But though Chinese are acceptable enough in the tropical countries of Asia they do not seem to create an equally good impression in other parts. In the Northern Territory of Australia and in the North Queensland, although in some demand as labourers, are cordially disliked by the bulk of the population, in spite of the fact that they provide almost the whole vegetable supply and are the only good servants obtainable. In Jamaica, too, where a few consignments of coolies have been made, they have failed to earn approbation. The Protector of Immigrants in that island, in his official report for 1889, says:—"Chinese immigration cannot be said to have been a success. The bulk of the Chinese were turbulent, cruel to one another, and did not show any disposition to carry out the terms of their contracts. Many deserted and went to Colan, defying the efforts of the police to prevent them and very few now remain in the island." On the other hand, he speaks very highly of the Indian immigrants, who are not only good workers, peaceable and contented, but are large depositors in the savings banks, and have contributed materially to the prosperity of the colony. It is clear therefore that the West Indies are not likely to come to China for their labour supply if they can get it from India. China will, however, for many years to come find outlets for its surplus population in the islands of the East Indian Archipelago. The large island of Celebes, the greater portion of which is unexplored, the Moluccas, and Timor, as well as Borneo and Sumatra, will prove fine fields for the employment of Chinese industry, and as they find former avenues closed to the natives of Kwangtung they will doubtless flock thither in greater numbers in the future.

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HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council was held on the 8th instant. There were present:

Hon. W. M. Deane, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. S. Brown, Surveyor-General.

Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, Acting Registrar-General.

Hon. P. EYRE, Attorney-General.

Hon. H. K. KAI.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Mr. P. A. Hazlewood, Acting Clerk of Councils.

The CHAIRMAN (the Acting Colonial Secretary) moved a vote of \$72,000 for the Surveyor-General's Department.

Hon. P. EYRE.—I rise, sir, to propose that this Council adopt the course followed by the Singapore Council in considering the estimates. The estimates are referred to the unofficial members for their consideration. I think that would be a very good plan, and I hope that the members of the Finance Committee will do this, or "Mauritius does this," or "Singapore does this," or "Mauritius does this." In this case we might very well follow what Singapore does. We are not satisfied with the estimates; we are not satisfied with the salaries voted to certain officers of the Government; and altogether we should like to have an opportunity to consider them. We wish to follow the course pursued by Singapore.

The CHAIRMAN.—Before going further will you let me know the terms of your motion?

Hon. P. EYRE.—That the unofficial members should consider the estimates in the same manner as is done in Singapore.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.—Very sorry, but I must rule your motion as out of order. It would be entirely in order if brought forward in the Legislative Council—but it is not in order in Finance Committee. I must say, sir, that the Finance Committee, but the motion of which notice has been given by the hon. member, a moment ago, if carried, takes the consideration of the estimates out of the hands of the Finance Committee and places it in the hands of another, a special committee. I make these observations, but the members of the Finance Committee, who are not satisfied with the estimates, we are not satisfied with the salaries voted to certain officers of the Government; and altogether we should like to have an opportunity to consider them. We wish to follow the course pursued by Singapore.

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Hon. P. EYRE.—Well, in that case we shall all vote against anything proposed from the chair.

The CHAIRMAN.—That, of course, I have nothing to do with.

Hon. P. EYRE.—In view of your having ruled my motion out of order, I propose that the Finance Committee adjourn to next Monday, until after the meeting of Councils.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is a perfectly legitimate motion.

Hon. H. K. KAI.—I beg to second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN.—Well, gentlemen, under the circumstances mentioned by the hon. member on the right, for which I thank him, that when the Legislative Council is held in plenary session a certain motion which may affect the proceeding of this Finance Committee, I do not think there will be any objection to the motion for adjournment.

The motion was agreed to, and the Committee adjourned.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 10th inst. There were present:

Hon. EXCELSIOR THE ACTING GOVERNOR.

Hon. E. FLEMING, C.M.G. Acting Colonial Secretary.

Hon. E. J. ACKROYD, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. H. E. WODEHOUSE, C.M.G. Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. S. Brown, Surveyor-General.

Hon. N. G. MITCHELL-INNES, Acting Registrar-General.

Hon. P. EYRE.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. H. K. KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Mr. P. A. HAZLEWOOD, Acting Clerk of Councils.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table statements concerning the Government's loan and the report on Public Works Estimates.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a financial statement of \$40,000 as alluvium for the widow of the late Mr. Wm. Warmer, Assistant Marine Surveyor, passed by the Finance Committee, and moved that the same be accepted.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Vote agreed to.

THE CHINESE LABOUR QUESTION.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee held on the 3rd and 5th inst.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Your Excellency, I beg to give notice of a motion which I understand I cannot make to-day, but which I wish to make at the next meeting of Council. The unofficial members are very much interested in the Apportionment Bill that has been introduced. I think your Excellency will admit that we do not naturally, as there are several considerable amounts by which the expenditure is increased, and as our financial position is not so brilliant as we thought it was a year or two ago. We therefore think it very desirable always to have some account of the expenditure of money, and I think your Excellency will agree with us on this point. I therefore beg to give notice that I shall move again on Thursday.

Hon. P. EYRE.—I am thinking about Mr. Kewick.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Mr. Kewick is not back, and I am not able to get him to come.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Well, shall we meet again on Thursday?

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Hon. P. EYRE.—Mr. Kewick is not back, and I am not able to get him to come.

Hon. P. EYRE.—We then agreed that the Council should meet on Thursday as proposed.

THE LAW DIVISION COMMITTEE.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following motion:—That the Government lay on the table a full report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee, on the 3rd and 5th inst., to present to the public the financial statement of \$40,000 as alluvium for the widow of the late Mr. Wm. Warmer, Assistant Marine Surveyor, passed by the Finance Committee.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Your Excellency, I think it will be found that the original idea of forming a Finance Committee was that we were to follow Singapore.

His EXCELLENCY.—Well, I have no objection to following Singapore.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.—If the unofficial members desire the estimates should be presented to the public instead of publicly, there can be no objection.

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Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following motion:—That the Government lay on the table a full report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee, on the 3rd and 5th inst., to present to the public the financial statement of \$40,000 as alluvium for the widow of the late Mr. Wm. Warmer, Assistant Marine Surveyor, passed by the Finance Committee.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Your Excellency, I think it will be found that the original idea of forming a Finance Committee was that we were to follow Singapore.

His EXCELLENCY.—Well, I have no objection to following Singapore.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.—If the unofficial members desire the estimates should be presented to the public instead of publicly, there can be no objection.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Well, shall we meet again on Thursday?

Hon. P. EYRE.—I am thinking about Mr. Kewick.

Hon. P. EYRE.—Mr. Kewick is not back, and I am not able to get him to come.

Hon. P. EYRE.—We then agreed that the Council should meet on Thursday as proposed.

THE LAW DIVISION COMMITTEE.

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